in "News Times" (Hyderabad) dated 2.6.97 in this regard.

(b) and (c) The matter is under examination.

Electrification of Madras-Trivandrum Rail Route

1219. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in the electrification of the remaining portion of the Madras-Trivandrum rail route; and

(b) how much money has been allotted for this work during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Madras-Trivandrum route consist of following sections:
(i) Madras-Erode
(ii) Erode-Ernakulam
(iii) Ernakulam-Trivandrum
Madras-Erode section was electrified in March, 92. The electrification work has been taken up on Erode-Ernakulam section out of which sub-section Erode to Shoranur has already been completed. Work beyond Shoranur is in progress. There is, at present, no proposal to electrify the remaining portion of the Madras-Trivandrum route i.e. Ernakulam-Trivandrum section.

(b) During the year 1997-98, Rs. 30 crores have been allotted for the electrification work of Erode-Ernakulam section.

Doubling of railway line from Kollam to Trivandrum

1220. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how far the work for the doubling of the Railway line from Kollam to Trivandrum has progressed; and

(b) the year-wise break up of the budget allotment for this work including the year 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Doubling has been completed from Trivandrum to Kochuvalli. The section from Kochuvalli to Kazakuttam will be commissioned in the current financial year. Work on the rest of the line has just been taken up after the land was made available by the State Govt, last month and would be completed by December, 99 subject to availability of resources.

(b)

Year	*Outlay in thousands of Rs.*
90-91	1,50,000
91-92	5,50,000
92-93	1
93-94	1
94-95	50,000
95-96	1,50,000
96-97	2,14,706
97-98	1,50,000

Emergency Quota Seats for VIPs

1221. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that seats from VIP emergency quota were being sold through just prior to the departure of train by charging Rs.400 to Rs.500 extra per ticket; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to stop such practices?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir. Moreover, the emergency quota earmarked for meeting urgent travel requirement of High Official Requisition holders, Minister, MPs and VIPs and* other emergent demands from various quarters is released sufficiently in advance before the scheduled departure of the train and unutilised quota gets released to the passengers on RAC waiting lists automatically at the time of preparation of charts.

(b) Does not arise.